Acute shortage of power in Bihar

*32. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of power in Bihar;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to increase the production of power;

(c) the date from when the Kanti Thermal Power Plant will start production for commercial purposes:

(d) the dates from when the Kahalgaon and Koel-Karo power projects are likely to be started; and

(e) whether it is a fact that Bihar gets no electricity from Farakka?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) There is power shortage in Bihar. To mitigate power shortage a number of measures including renovation and modernisation of thermal plants at Patratu, Barauni and Karbigahia and development of additional generating capacity have been initiated.

(c) The first unit of 110 MW at Kanti (Muzaffarpur) Thermal Power Plant was commissioned on 31st March, 1985. It is expected to start generation by the end of July, 1985. Efforts are being made to commission the second unit also during the current year.

(d) The time schedule of commissioning for Kahalgaon Thermal Power Project and Koel-Karo Hydro-electric Power Project cannot be finalised till land acquisition has been completed.

(e) Bihar will get its share from Farakka when the power station is commissioned.

Subarnarekha Multi-Purpose Project

*33. DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has so far been made in the Subarnarekha Multipurpose Project in the West Bengal-Biha-Orissa Sector; and

(b) whether the project will be utilize to check Floods?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND). (a) Out of an estimated cost of Rs. 480.9 crores, an expenditure of Rs. 85 crores has been incurred so far on the Subarnarekha Multipurpose Project. Construction work has commenced on the Chandil Dam and Galudih Barrage. Construction work is also in progress on Chandil Left Canal, Icha Right Canal, Galudih Link Canal and Kharkai barrage right canal. The Land acquisition work for the Kharkai Dam is in an advanced stage.

(b) There is provision in the Chandil reservoir for a flood moderation storage, which will reduce the impact of floods in the downstream area

Sharing of Ganga Waters

*34 SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether dispute regarding sharing of Ganga Waters with Bangladesh has been resolved; and

(b) if not, by when an accord is likely to be reached to settle this long standing issue?